



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Edward E. Miller) Atty. Dkt. No. 03.09.17.1
Serial No. 10/789,207)
Filing Date: 2/27/2004) Art Unit: 1713
Title:) Examiner: Robert D. Harlan
Duncan, Oklahoma 73534)
Date: March 11, 2006
**WATER CONTROL IN A
SUBSURFACE FORMATION**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

14 Commissioner For Patents
15 P.O. Box 1450
16 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

17 Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005.

19 The rejection of claims 1-8 and 12-16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated
20 by Kato is traversed for the following reasons.

21 Claims 1, 2 and 6 are drawn to a method of making a water soluble polymer of
22 an acrylic acid compound. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are drawn to method of making a
23 water insoluble gel by reacting the water soluble polymer of claim 2 with a cross linking
24 agent. Claims 12 and 13 are drawn to a method of making a water soluble polymer.
25 Claims 14 and 15 are drawn to a method of adjusting the permeability of a subsurface
26 formation by introducing into the formation a gel which is not water soluble, wherein the
27 gel is formed by first making a water soluble polymer and then combining the water
28 soluble polymer with a cross linking agent. Claim 16 is drawn to a method of adjusting